

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S SPEECH

REF: STATE 12946 (NOTAL)

1. DIRECTOR PAE PYONG-SUNG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL
LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER INFORMAL RESPONSE
TO AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S JANUARY 18 CINCINNATI SPEECH,
JANUARY 31. PAE SAID ROKG UNDERSTANDS THE US POSITION
AS OUTLINED IN THE SPEECH, BUT FINDS THE PRESENTATION
UNUSUALLY STRONG AND HOPES THAT IT DOES NOT MEAN THE US
WILL BE UNWILLING TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A SUCCESS-
FUL CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. THE ROKG IS ANXIOUS THAT
THE CONFERENCE NOT FAIL AND FEELS THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION
MAY STILL REQUIRE MORE TIME. PAE SAID THAT THE US POSITION
DOES SEEM TO CONTAIN ELEMENTS THAT WOULD PERMIT A COMPROMISE
SOLUTION.

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2. IN SPECIFIC TERMS, PAE SAID THE ROKG, AS A MEMBER OF
THE GROUP OF 77, FEELS THAT GROUP HAS CONSIDERABLE
JUSTICE ON ITS SIDE. HOWEVER, THE ROK IS NOT INVARIABLY
LINKED WITH THE GROUP, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE KOREAN ECONOMY
DEPENDS ON IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS AND EXPEDITIOUS DEVELOP-
MENT OF SEABED RESOURCES COULD BE IMPORTANT IN THAT REGARD.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THE INTERESTS OF THE CURRENT PRODUCERS

CANNOT BE NEGLECTED. ON THESE GROUNDS THE ROK HAD FAVORED THE EVENSEN DRAFT ON RESOURCES POLICY.

3. PROVIDING FURTHER DETAIL, PAE SAID THE ROK FAVORS THE PROPOSAL FOR A 36-MEMBER GOVERNING COUNCIL, WITH 18 MEMBERS SELECTED ON A GEOGRAPHIC BASIS AND 18 FROM PARTICULAR INTEREST GROUPS, NOTABLY INCLUDING RAW MATERIAL IMPORTERS AND COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT. PAE NOTED THAT IN THIS CONNECTION THE ROK HAD DEPARTED FROM THE POSITION OF THE 77, WHICH FAVORED A 24-14 COMBINATION.

4. AS REGARDS ACTUAL SEABED EXPLOITATION POLICY, PAE SAID THE ROK HOPES FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF SEABED RESOURCES, AND FAVORS THE PARALLEL SYSTEM, WHEREBY THE SEABED AUTHORITY WOULD HAVE FULL POWER TO GOVERN EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED BUT PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXPLOITATION PROCESS UNDER THE AUTHORITY'S SUPERVISION. KOREA ALSO FAVORS THE EVENSEN PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW OF THE ARRANGEMENTS AFTER A 20 YEAR PERIOD.

5. PAE SAID THAT BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SU-KIL WOULD BE ATTENDING THE INTERSESSIONAL CONFERENCE, AND WOULD MAKE THE ROKG POSITION KNOWN TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AS APPROPRIATE (ADDING THAT MANY OF THESE VIEWS HAD ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED IN EARLIER MEETINGS). PAE ADDED THAT HE

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VIEWS THE FORTHCOMING SEQUENCE OF MEETINGS AS AUSPICIOUS, SINCE THE GROUP OF 77 MEETING IN DAKAR IN MARCH, FOLLOWING THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING, WOULD PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE 77 TO REVIEW THEIR POSITIONS BEFORE THE 7TH LOS SESSION. IN LIGHT OF THIS SEQUENCE HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE 7TH SESSION. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THE ROKG'S HOPE THAT THE US WOULD STILL BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE TOWARD A COMPROMISE ON WHAT SEEMED TO BE THE ONE MAJOR ISSUE STILL UNRESOLVED.

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